

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OIC-04 NIC-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /146 W

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R 191608Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8175

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 1143

PASS LABOR AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ILO SP XG

SUBJECT: SPANISH WORKER DELEGATE'S COMMENTS ON ILO EUROPEAN  
CONFERENCE AND ON EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING

REF: (A) MADRID 294; (B) MADRID 427; (C) GENEVA 259; (D)

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GENEVA 296; (E) GENEVA 371; (F) GENEVA 341

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING SPANISH ILO WORKER DELEGATE ZAPICO, GOS AND SSO CONSIDER RECENT ILO EUROPEAN CONFERENCE A SUCCESS SINCE NO MENTION OF SPAIN WAS MADE IN FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND BECAUSE ZAPICO STOOD UP FOR SSO'S CREDENTIALS AGAINST SOVIET WORKER DELEGATE PIMENOV AND HELPED DIMINISH ANTI-SPANISH CLIMATE. SOME IN SSO VIEW ZAPICO'S ABSENCE FROM SEPARATE BUT PARALLEL EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING, AFTER HIS RIGHT TO ATTEND HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED, AS A SHORTSIGHTED MISTAKE. REAL SPANISH WINNERS AT BOTH CONFERENCE AND PARALLEL MEETING, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL SOCIALIST UGT AND COMMUNIST WORKERS COMMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES, WHO SAT ON I.C.F.T.U. AND W.F.T.U. OBSERVER DELEGATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. NOEL ZAPICO, SPANISH WORKER DELEGATE TO ILO CONFERENCES AND ONE OF HIGHEST-RANKING ELECTED WORKER REPRESENTATIVES IN SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO), RECENTLY GAVE LABATT RUNDOWN OF HIS ROLE AND SPAIN'S PROBLEMS AT JANUARY ILO REGIONAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE.

3. ZAPICO'S MOST DIFFICULT TIME WAS DURING FIRST DAY CREDENTIALS FIGHT IN ILO WORKER GROUP, WHERE BOTH MIGUEL SANCHEZ MAZAS OF SOCIALIST UGT AND COMMUNIST CARLOS ELVIRA GONZALEZ OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS (BOTH LABOR GROUPS ARE ILLEGAL AND OPERATE CLANDESTINELY INSIDE SPAIN) WERE PRESENT. SOVIET WORKER DELEGATE PIMENOV GAVE HIS STRONG SPEECH ATTACKING GOS AND SSO FOR ABSENCE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS, CALLED FOR EXPULSION OF ZAPICO ON GROUNDS SSO DID NOT REPRESENT SPANISH WORKERS AND CALLED FOR SEATING OF ELVIRA. (REF C).

4. ZAPICO IMMEDIATELY REPLIED STRONGLY TO PIMENOV'S SPEECH BY CONDEMNING SECTARIAN DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDE OF WORKER GROUP, CRITICIZING I.C.F.T.U. FOR ITS NEW POLICY OF DETENTE WITH W.F.T.U., AND VERBALLY ATTACKING AGAINST PIMENOV (REF B) FOR SOVIET'S BLATANT HYPOCRISY ON TRADE UNION FREEDOMS, CITING AUTHOR OF "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO". ZAPICO THEN STALKED OUT AS "SELF-RESPECT OF SPANISH WORKERS" DEMANDED.

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5. ZAPICO REMARKED THAT SOME OF OTHER MEMBERS OF SPANISH ILO DELEGATION, E.G., GOVERNMENT DELEGATE AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA, UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS STRONG ANTI-SOVIET SPEECH, WHICH ZAPICO DID NOT CLEAR WITH THEM, BECAUSE THEY FAVOR BEHIND-THE-SCENES DIPLOMACY, NOT OPEN CONFRONTATION.

6. ZAPICO SAID HE SUBSEQUENTLY SENT PROTEST LETTER TO

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT O'LEARY AND IN INTERVIEW WITH ACTING ILO DG BLANCHARD, HE THREATENED TO PUBLICLY CHALLENGE CREDENTIALS OF SOVIET AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN WORKER DELEGATES IF SPANISH WORKER DELEGATION WERE EITHER DENIED CREDENTIALS OR EXPELLED.

7. ZAPICO CLAIMED HIS PROTEST ACTIONS HAD THEIR EFFECT IN DIMINISHING ANTI-SPANISH CLIMATE AT CONFERENCE AND RESULTED IN ZAPICO'S CREDENTIALS BEING UPHELD AND IN LIMITING UGT'S SANCHEZ MAZAS AND WORKER COMMISSIONS ELVIRA TO SEATS ONLY ON I.C.F.T.U. AND W.F.T.U. OBSERVER DELEGATIONS. ZAPICO STATED HIS GREATEST PERSONAL VINDICATION CAME JANUARY 17 WHEN NUMBER TWO MAN IN SOVIET WORKER DELEGATION SOMEWHAT SHEEPISHLY APOLOGIZED FOR PIMENOV'S SPEECH, AND STATED SOVIETS DID NOT WISH CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR ANY DELEGATIONS AT CONFERENCE, INCLUDING SPANISH.

8. ZAPICO WAS PLEASED WITH MERGED CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS WHICH DROPPED REFERENCES TO SPAIN, GREECE OR PORTUGAL (REF D).

9. COMMENTING ON SEPARATE GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING JANUARY 19, ZAPICO CONFIRMED SPANISH DELEGATION HAD ESTABLISHED, THROUGH BLANCHARD AND OTHERS, THAT ZAPICO HAD RIGHT TO ATTEND MEETING. AFTER SECURING ACKNOWLEDGMENT THIS RIGHT, HOWEVER, ZAPICO DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND MEETING BECAUSE HE KNEW BOTH UGT'S SANCHEZ MAZAS AND WORKERS COMMISSIONS ELVIRA WOULD BE PRESENT AND WERE PLANNING ON GIVING STRONG SPEECHES AGAINST SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND SSO, WHICH WOULD BE ANOTHER AFFRONT TO SPANISH WORKERS.

10. AT EAST-WEST MEETING, SANCHEZ MAZAS AND ELVIRA DID MAKE STRONG SPEECHES AGAINST GOS AND SSO, BUT BY THIS TIME  
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SPAIN HAD BEEN FORGOTTEN BY OTHER EUROPEAN TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE CONCENTRATING ON TRADE UNION DETENTE (REF E).

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USSMISSION GENEVA 539

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 1143

PASS LABOR AND COMMERCE

11. COMMENT: ZAPICO'S POPULARITY SOARED WITHIN SSO AS  
RESULT OF PUBLICITY SPANISH PRESS GAVE HIS SPEECH AGAINST  
PIMENOV IN STANDING UP FOR SSO'S CREDENTIALS AT ILO.  
SPANISH DELEGATION VIEWED CONFERENCE AS SUCCESS, SINCE  
SPAIN NOT MENTIONED IN ANY OF RESOLUTIONS EVEN THOUGH IT  
LACKED USUAL ILO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS FROM IBERO-AMERICA  
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AND ARAB WORLD.

12. REAL SPANISH VICTORS AT BOTH ILO EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
AND AT TRADE UNION MEETING, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL  
UGT AND WORKERS COMMISSIONS, SINCE THEIR PRESENCE (THEY  
ALSO ATTENDED ILO ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE LAST JUNE)

LENT STATURE TO THEIR CLAIMS TO REPRESENT SPANISH WORKERS. NOTEWORTHY THAT WORKERS COMMISSIONS' CARLOS ELVIRA COULD FIND A SEAT AT CONFERENCE ONLY AS MEMBER OF W.F.T.U. OBSERVER DELEGATION, FACT WHICH MIGHT CALL ATTENTION ABROAD TO COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS, SOMETHING WHICH ELVIRA AND WORKERS COMMISSIONS HAVE SO FAR UNSUCCESSFULLY CONCEALED. DESPITE JOINT PRESENCE OF BOTH UGT AND WORKER COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES, LATENT HOSTILITY BETWEEN SPANISH COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES MAY ERUPT AT FUTURE CONFERENCES, SINCE BOTH RIVAL UGT AND WORKERS COMMISSIONS EACH SEEK EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION FROM EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CIRCLES.

13. ZAPICO TOLD LABATT HE VIEWED CONFERENCE AS FIRST STEP IN ABSORPTION OF I.C.F.T.U. BY W.F.T.U.

14. SOME SOURCES IN SSO AND LABOR MINISTRY VIEWED ZAPICO'S ABSENCE FROM EAST-WEST MEETING AS BOTH WRONG AND SHORTSIGHTED SINCE ONCE SPAIN HAD ESTABLISHED ITS RIGHT TO ATTEND, SPANISH WORKER DELEGATE SHOULD HAVE GONE, IRRESPECTIVE OF PRESENCE OF SANCHEZ MAZAS AND ELVIRA. THEY BELIEVE IT MORE IMPORTANT FOR SSO TO MAKE ITS PHYSICAL PRESENCE FELT AT SUCH MEETINGS, REGARDLESS OF ANY ANTI-SPANISH ATMOSPHERE, THEREBY HELPING ACHIEVE BETTER INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. THEY STRESS ABSENCE OF SSO AND ZAPICO'S SELF-EXCLUSION WAS PRECISELY WHAT BOTH WESTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS AND SOVIET BLOC LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HOPED FOR TO EMPHASIZE SPANISH LABOR'S STATUS AS INTERNATIONAL PARIAH.

15. PROBLEM NOW ARISES OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON HUMANIZATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT SCHEDULED TO BE HELD SOMETIME DURING 1974. IF MEETING IS HELD UNDER ILO UMBRELLA, IT MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN EVER FOR SPANISH WORKER DELEGATE TO ATTEND SHOULD SSO CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE ON BOYCOTTING SUCH MEETINGS. DESPITE JANUARY 19 BOYCOTT, THERE ARE INDICATIONS SSO IS RETHINKING ITS POLICY OF BOYCOTTING SUCH MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE. RIVERO

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## Message Attributes

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